IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

JOSEL et al.

JAN 2 8 2000 JAN 2 8 2000

FEB 0 1 2000 TECH CENTER 1600/2.

Serial Number: 08/776,190

Examiner: J. Ricigliano

Filed: January 24, 1997

Group Art Unit: 1648

For:

OLIGOMERIC CARRIER MOLECULES WITH DEFINED INCORPORATED

MARKER GROUPS AND HAPTEN

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.121

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

January 28, 2000

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 23, 1999.

This Office Action is an Election Requirement. The Examiner is requiring applicants to elect from subspecies of Groups A-C. Applicants make the following elections:

- For Species A, applicants elect amino acids;
- For Species B, applicants elect hormones; and
- For Species C, applicants elect luminescent metal chelates.

Applicants remind the Examiner that if no references are found which anticipate and/or render obvious the chosen species, the Examiner is required to widen his search to embrace more species in applicants generic invention.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn

Richard J. Berman

Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 39,107

Atty. Docket No. P564-7002

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RJB:ccd